

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants hereby responds to the Office Action of March 1, 2006. Reconsideration is requested.

The pending claims still subject to consideration are 1, 2, 4-7, 14-20 and 24.

Support for Amendments

Regarding Claim 1, it is clear from the specification that components (1), (2) and (3) are intended to be 3 distinct entities. (See especially, page 10, line 1 – page 13, line 5). The amendments to Claim 1 clarify that fact.

Support for the amendment to Claim 2 is, for example, found in the original language of Claims 1 and 2.

Support for the amendments to Claims 4, 16 and 19 is found at page 10, line 1 –page 13, line 5, where the application makes it clear that the preferred directly linkable molecules include siloxanes, polysiloxanes and polyurethanes (See, as to siloxanes and polysiloxanes, especially page 11, line 8-11; and as to polyurethanes, especially page 12, lines 2-6.). Also, use of the term “functionalized” at page 11, lines 6-7, is immediately followed by illustrative examples described simply as “polysiloxanes” and “siloxanes” (page 11, line 8 and following) and later by examples described simply as “polyurethanes” (page 12, line 2 and following).

Support for the amendment to Claim 15 is found, for example, in the original language of Claims 2 and 15.

The amendment to Claim 18 finds support at page 2, line 10.

Rejection of Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 14-20 and 24 under 35 USC §112, second paragraph

(Paragraph 9 of Office Action)

The Examiner has based this rejection in part on the grounds that, in Claim 1, the metes and bound of the “directly linkable molecule... that is linkable to a carboxyl group” are indeterminate in scope, specifically that such component of Claim 1 reads on component (1) of Claim 1. Applicant has amended Claim 1 so as to remove the grounds of this rejection. It is now clear that the claimed composition requires that the directly linkable molecule be a molecular species other than the PAA.

The Examiner has also based this rejection in part on the grounds that, in Claim 2, the metes and bounds of the “two other molecules” are indeterminate in scope. Applicant has amended the language of the claim to clarify the scope of the claim.

The Examiner has based this rejection in part on the grounds that, in Claims 4, 16 and 19, “functionalized” is indefinite as to scope and meaning. Applicant has deleted the word, “functionalized” from the claims.

The Examiner has based this rejection in part on the grounds that, in Claim 15, the metes and bounds of the “cross-linkable molecule” are indeterminate in scope, specifically that such molecule does not distinguish over the cross-linker or over components (1) and (2) of Claim (1). Applicant has amended Claims 2 and 15 to clarify the scope of Claim 15.

The Examiner has based his rejection in part on the grounds that, in Claim 18, the abbreviation PAI is undefined. Applicants have amended Claim 18 accordingly.

Rejection of Claims 1,2, 4-7, 14-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. as obvious over Ireland et al. (Paragraph 12 of Office Action)

The Examiner has based this rejection on the grounds that the triamine fulfills two different functions: (1) neutralizing the amic acid functionality and (2) being the directly linkable molecule. Applicants have amended Claim 1 to clarify that these two functions are to be fulfilled by two different molecular entities.

Claim 18, the only other independent pending claim subject to consideration, covers a coating comprising a PAI linked to at least one other molecule, which molecule is neither a PAA nor a PAI. The tertiary amine disclosed in Ireland et al is chosen so that it is readily volatilized during the thermally-induced cyclization step. (Ireland et al, col. 7, lines 58-61). Therefore it is not intended to be part of a final coating. In fact, Ireland specifically discloses a curing step at 300 °C for 180 minutes or a combination of 30 minutes at 150 °C followed by an approximately 37 minute transition to 260 °C, and 15 minutes at 260 °C, more than sufficient to volatilize a volatile tertiary amine. Indeed, the present application at page 10, lines 7-9 indicates that preferred neutralizing agents are those that volatilize in range 120 – 140 °C. See also page 15, lines 15-17, page 19, lines 3-4.)

Rejection of Claims 1,2, 4-7, 14-20 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. as obvious over US patent No. 4,832,808 (Buchwalter; Paragraph 13 of Office Action)

The Examiner has based this rejection on the grounds that the '808 patent discloses a PAA, a neutralizing agent, and a directly linkable agent. This rejection is traversed on the grounds that the '808 patent does not disclose a PAA as defined in the application at page 5, line 21 through page 9. It is also rejected on the grounds that the amendment of Claim 1 has clarified that the directly linkable molecule is a molecular species distinct from both the PAA and the neutralizing agent.

Rejection of Claims 18-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. as obvious over US patent No. 5,133,840 (Buchwalter; Paragraph 14 of Office Action)

The Examiner has based this rejection on the grounds that the '840 patent discloses a PAI and at least one molecule other than a PAI. This rejection is traversed on the grounds that the '840 patent does not disclose a PAI as defined in the application at page 7, line 13 – page 9.

For at least the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants'

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Reply to Office Action of March 1, 2006

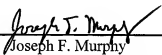
undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,
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June 8, 2006

Please charge or credit our
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